(c) The decision to place a particular division under a particular zone is taken based on the operational/administrative requirements without any regional considerations. The proposal, whe,n seen in the light of the above criterion has not been found feasible. The present arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Modernisation of **Madurai Railway Station**

3503. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madurai railway station has been given A-l status; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for its modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last three years, an expenditure of Rs. 1.70 crore has been incurred on modernisation works at this station.

New Railway projects in Maharashtra

3504. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government to take up and provide funds for new railway lines, widening of existing railway lines and doubling the existing lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of work proposed to be taken up during 2008-09 and the fund allocated for the purpose; and

(d) by when the entire work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from State Government of Maharashtra for providing funds to various ongoing projects in the State. Requests have also been received for taking up new projects.

(c) During 2008-09, an allocation of Rs. 1135.65 crore has been provided for various projects falling fully/partly in the State. The new projects which have been included in Railway Budget 2008-09 are:—

(i) Wardha-Nanded new line;

(ii) Ratlam-Akola gauge conversion;

(iii) Udhna-Jalgaon doubling;

(iv) Mumbai Urban Transport Projects (Phase-II) rail component.

(d) Works would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.